STOP HUNTINGDON ANIMAL CRUELTY

Newsletter 8

Tel: 0121 632 6460

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1YN

email: info@shac.u-net.com www.shac.net

Huntingdon Life Sciences

we film undercover inside Occold

HLS UNDER SIEGE

We thought it was time to pay HLS a visit for the national demo on Saturday 4th November, much to the surprise of the police, as most of them appeared to be waiting for us in Cambridge. Whoops! Demonstrators from all over the country converged onto the gates of HLS blowing whistles, banging drums, blasting sirens and demanding the closure of this hell hole. The section 14 was totally ineffective as usual.

Outside the gates we had stirring speeches and the response from the demonstrators was one of sheer determination that we have got HLS on its knees and we will not stop or go away until HLS has closed. We all know that for a fact HLS WILL CLOSE. John Curtin gave an impassioned speech and within minutes of him speaking the police moved in and arrested him in a very brutal, violent, unnecessary manner. Why, because he spoke the truth. What has happened to freedom of speech in this country? It doesn't exist. However, what the police and all the authorities have failed to realise is WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED. The truth is being told by us and we will continue to let the public know what is really going on inside HLS. OUR TRUTH IS THEIR SHAME. I know a number of protesters had never been on a demo before and they were appalled at the behaviour and bully-boy tactics of the coppers. All it has done has made them more determined to come back and fight for the closure of this filthy hell hole.

At 4pm the demonstrators moved on and did home visits to three directors of the company called AdProTech (leaked documents show that AdProTech approached HLS in 1999 regarding experiments on Marmosets). Once again yet another company was reminded that there is a price to pay for doing business with animal abusers! Following the home visits AdProTech contacted SHAC and stated: *"we have no intention of being a customer [of HLS] in the future."*

Editorial

Unbelievable! We have now exposed HLS twice in 6 weeks. This time it's the turn of HLS's Occold site, which means that every HLS site has been infiltrated in the last 3 years. The latest scandal involves drinking, drug-taking and a baboon escaping from HLS's Huntingdon site, as well as confidential information on 10 of HLS's customers. This is the last thing in the world HLS need at the moment. This is the springboard we need to really push the next and most important phase of the campaign - CUSTOMERS.

We have all the evidence we need to go to customers and demand how can they still use HLS after the latest damning evidence of cruelty and incompetence at HLS. The arithmetic is simple - if HLS lose customers, their sales go down so in turn they make more of a loss. HLS then go cap in hand to financial institutions who are already seriously disillusioned with HLS. The added twist is that Huntingdon no longer own two out of three of their own labs, and their share price is languishing at around 5p. Mmmm, what a good investment! Yet another downward turn is the release of Huntingdon's latest figures which shows that their losses are INCREASING. We constantly have to listen to Cass & Co. spouting empty rhetoric about increased confidence. Blah! Blah! Blah! How we laugh when we think of their increased losses, rock bottom share price and lack of assets. Two colleagues did a stall in Diss (nr. Occold) a few days ago. An ex-worker came up who is friendly with current HLS workers. She said morale is shattered and most of the workers think that HLS will close down - so much for confidence!

In this mailout you will find a list of customers and their directors in your area. Please organise yourselves or your group to demonstrate and target this list on at least a weekly basis. It cannot be stressed enough that this is the key to HLS's closure. The pressure needs to be felt hard by customers nationwide so organise yourselves and make sure your area is covered because lives depend on it NOW. The end of HLS is in our hands, it really is. You must realise the power you hold in localised customer demos. You just see what's happening in your area. We see the nationwide picture of all these demos put together and believe me it's powerful and it's shaking HLS to pieces so attack, attack, attack! Live and breath CUSTOMERS. HLS are on the ropes and now is the time for our knockout punches.

Financial Times
16/11/00

Huntingdon loss rises sharply

Huntingdon Life Sciences, the drug testing group, incurred an increased pre-tax loss of £1.9m in the third quarter of this year, against £132,000 in the same period last year.

Huntingdon, which in August secured £34m of financial support from US investors, reported turnover of £16.1m (£15m) in the three months to September.

It ran up a pre-tax loss of £5.8m (£5.2m) in the first nine months of this year, on turnover of £47.5m (£42.7m). The company expressed optimism on its refinancing programme.

Huntingdon Life Sciences EXPOSED YET AGAIN!

In October 2000, just weeks after the xenotransplantation programme carried out at Huntingdon Life Sciences, in collaboration with Imutran, was exposed in the UK national newspaper The Daily Express, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty received documents, photographs and video footage relating to Huntingdon Life Sciences's site at Occold in Suffolk.
The material received by the campaign gave us shocking evidence of:

- a monkey escaping from a HLS lab,
- drunkenness,
- drug taking on site,
- high levels of absenteeism,
- low staff morale,
- animal suffering,
- gross incompetence,
- safety regulations being flouted.

We also have detailed information regarding HLS's clients, including **Monsanto, Glaxo Wellcome, British Biotech, Neurocrine, Roche, Lipha, Du Pont, Searle and Servier**, and the primate toxicology experiments they paid Huntingdon Life Sciences to carry out on their behalf in 1999-2000.
The documents also include the 1999 findings of the Good Laboratory Practice Monitoring Authority, which lists a staggering 41 deficiencies found at the Occold laboratory.

MONKEY ESCAPING

The most shocking revelation was video footage of an animal technician, Sarah, laughing as she recounted how a baboon escaped from Huntingdon Life Sciences's site at Huntingdon and ran across the A1 dual carriageway.

Person 1: *"You can imagine going through a docket hole in the ceiling and a fucking big baboon ..."*
Sarah: ***"That happened up at Huntingdon."***
Person 1: *"You're joking."*
Sarah: ***"No, legged it across the A1."***
Person 1: [Inaudible]
Sarah: ***"I think so. It ended up in the plant room. The engineers went up there and left the door open and it fucked off across the A1."***
Person 1: *"Did they catch it?"*
Sarah: ***"Eventually. It wouldn't have survived anyway."***
Person 1: *"Is that why it's so hot in here?"*
[Sarah nods]
Person 2: *"How much did it weigh?"*
Sarah: ***"Up to 15 kilos."***

This shows HLS employees' cavalier attitude to a very serious incident. How many other animals have escaped? What diseases was this baboon carrying? Was this incident reported to the Home Office, Police and Study Sponsor?

"...It [the baboon] fucked off across the A1"

DRUNKENNESS

One of the documents received was a Formal Written Warning given to Selina Williams, an animal technician working in Dog and Primate Toxicology. When asked why she had not arrived at work or notified the company, she replied: **"On my way to work I was stopped by the police, and subsequently charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. I was given a fine and received points on my licence."**
It is almost unbelievable that this worker was disciplined for not attending work, yet the fact that she was on her way to work drunk was not considered worthy of disciplinary action.
Included in notes about another technician, James Berry, is the following: **"I am aware that James has received counselling for alcohol-related problems whilst employed by HLS."**
Do HLS consider that a worker with alcohol problems is fit to work with animals and carry out experimental procedures such as dosing accurately?
On the video footage we received, animal technician Sarah laughs as she recounts how two workers were in trouble for staying in the pub for two hours over lunchtime.
This is a serious concern. How can someone who has been drinking to this extent possibly be in a fit state to carry out experimental procedures or ensure that animals are properly looked after?
Huntingdon Life Sciences's own Staff Handbook states that certain offences are sufficiently serious to warrant instant dismissal without prior warning. One of these offences is: "Being under the influence of intoxicating liquor on Company premises."
Why were the above workers not sacked immediately?

DRUGS

Of particular concern is the following, taken from notes regarding animal technician James Berry: ***"Team Leader informed me that James had offered Speed to Selina Williams and Jess Ashwell having already taken some himself. Both have agreed to supply written statements regarding this."***
In the Staff Handbook it states that "possession, consumption or being under the influence of drugs on company premises" warrants instant dismissal.
Why was this worker not dismissed immediately? Why didn't HLS inform the police of the criminal activity taking place on their premises?

ABSENTEEISM

We received copies of many records of disciplinary action and other documents regarding staff from the Dog and Primate Toxicology Units not turning up for work, and also not notifying the company they were not coming in.
One letter to a Mrs V. Rush from John Holmes states: ***"Your current level of sickness is unacceptable. This level of absenteeism does not assist your working colleagues to achieve their work loads or (sic) does it assist us to ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained."***

Cont'd on page 4...

STAFF MORALE

It is evident from several different documents that staff morale at Occold is very low.

One technician when interviewed about why he walked out of work in the middle of the day without informing anyone, stated that he ***"had reached the end of his tether."*** He said that other members of staff felt the same, and that he ***"was merely the first to crack."***

A letter from Pete Denholm, Chief Animal Technician, to a Mr S Frost informing him of a salary rise and promotion to the position of Team Leader has a hand-written note on it saying: ***"Welcome to the stress club."***

Another indication of staff problems at Occold is a letter from Jamie Kilpatrick in the Dog Toxicology Unit to John Holmes, Principal Team Leader and Animal Facility Manager, stating: ***"This building can't afford to have such negativity and bad reports otherwise some questions will be asked further up the line (surely)?"***

"It certainly opened my eyes up to how much you all enjoy violating other peoples' privacy and just how LITTLE RESPECT there is in here. It is appalling that people think they have the right to do these things. The kind of behaviour that frequently goes on in here I wouldn't dream of doing."

Picture of a metabolism cage taken inside Occold

Another note signed by Pete Denholm, Chief Animal Technician, concerns two female technicians and how they leave work early in the evening and stay on lunch longer than they should. He mentions their ***"blatant abuse of our trust."***

The undercover activist was allowed to walk around the labs unchallenged

LEG BROKEN

In a confidential Record of Disciplinary Action dated 7th January 2000, a Mrs Vicky Rush, now in Marmoset Breeding, was given a formal verbal warning when ***"... one male marmoset suffered an irreversible fracture to the left Femur while being restrained within the gangcage. The animal was euthanased on humane grounds."***

A formal verbal warning, according to HLS's own handbook, is given for a minor offence, whilst immediate dismissal is meant to happen when "any action which deliberately or by negligence results in injury to an animal."

Why was Vicky Rush not sacked immediately?

MISDOSING

Another Formal Written Warning was issued to Sarah Kirkup in Dog and Primate Toxicology when she gave a monkey in a British Biotech experiment the vehicle substance instead of the test substance, threw away the dose the animal should have been given and did not inform any of her team. She admits ***"I know I have made a serious mistake."***

Chief Technician Pete Denholm's handwritten note states that ***"the chain of events commencing in the pharmacy department and then subsequently in the animals must have a serious impact on our client confidence as numerous checks put in place were blatantly not followed."***

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IGNORED

A hand-written note from Pete Denholm to Carley Smith regards safety precautions being ignored resulting in a germ off accident, the third one in one month. He states that all the accidents have resulted in staff taking time off work. He says ***"you were not wearing eye protection in the first 3 gang cages"*** and that staff ***"have been reminded on several occasions to wear safety equipment."***

This sort of behaviour shows the 'couldn't care less' attitude of HLS staff. This incident should be particularly worrying to HLS given that a laboratory worker died in America from Herpes B after a monkey threw its faeces in her eye.

How can HLS's clients have any confidence that experiments are being properly carried out?

INFORMATION ON CUSTOMERS

We received a considerable amount of confidential information regarding customers and the primate toxicology experiments they have paid Huntingdon Life Sciences to carry out on their behalf in 1999-2000.

As you can see from one of the tables from Toxicology Planning at HLS 14th March 2000 and reproduced above right, the information is comprehensive, listing the study number, enquiry number, company, substance to be tested, quote number, order month, quote value, price, species, study type and duration, route of administration, department, start month, site and HLS contact for each experiment.

Some tables list how many monkeys have been assigned to each experiment, with the company name listed beside the number of animals, and other tables list the duration of each experiment.

We also have various e-mails, such as the enquiry (below right) from David J. Beard at Glaxo, and also internal HLS e-mails regarding various customers and experiments, as well as several speculative protocols for toxicity studies for various companies such as Diamyd and ARPIDA.

BREACHES OF GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE

It was of great interest to read HLS's

Tox Planning - Data for Wednesday 15th March 2000

Study No	Enq No	Company	Material	Quote No	Qu	Order Month	Quote Value	Price	Species	Study Type	Duration	Route	S/H	L/H	Dept	QC	Start Month
MON227	20321E	Searle Research & Developmen	MMP Inhibitor	X09455	A	Jan-00	118,988	-	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic Tox	4+0		0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Feb-00
SVA260	20750A	Servier Research & Developme	S 32504-5	U10140	A	Jan-00	26,000	24,500	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic prelim	0+0	IV	0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Mar-00
MON207	20321A	Searle Research & Developmen	MMP Inhibitor	X09452	A	Aug-99	207,738	182,400	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic Tox	9+0		0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Mar-00
DTL063	21010B	Du Pont Pharmaceutical Co		U09407	A	Dec-99	25,536	-	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic prelim	5+0		0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Mar-00
AAG003	21374H	ARPIDA AG	AR100	U10268	*	Mar-00	10,800	19,100	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic prelim	1+0	IV	0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Apr-00
	20450H	Diamyd Medical of Stockholm	DIAMYD (GAD)			Mar-00	-	480,000	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic Tox	60+0	SC	0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	May-00
BBT109	19632C	British Biotech Pharmaceuticals	Marimastat	U10287	a	Mar-00	167,100	148,000	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic Tox	13+0		0	0	Primate Toxicology	E	Jun-00
	21010C	Du Pont Pharmaceutical Co				Mar-00	-	50,000	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic Tox	4+0		0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Jun-00
AAG004	21374I	ARPIDA AG	AR100	U10268	*	Mar-00	100,800	162,800	MKY	Subchronic/Chronic Tox	2+2	IV	0	0	Primate Toxicology	N	Jul-00

overview of the findings of the 1999 inspection of Occold by the Good Laboratory Practice Monitoring Authority. There were 41 deficiencies listed following the inspection.

One major deficiency listed was that HLS produced multiple versions of reports for one study, even though only one report per study is allowed, and also changed details within the report - according to the GLPMA ***"the outcome was misleading information."***

There were also major deficiencies with multi-site studies with regard to reporting separate phases and management control, and major deficiencies regarding Quality Assurance.

Other discrepancies were listed in various areas, including SOPs, Training issues, Records, Archiving, Quality Assurance, Equipment, Labelling and Facilities.

One discrepancy of particular concern is ***"estimating dose volumes in syringe."*** HLS's own internal comment is ***"Yet again! Estimating between the graduation lines or pulling the plunger past the last graduation lines is not acceptable."*** How can HLS possibly assure customers of the integrity of studies carried out on their behalf when the dosages are inaccurate?

Other discrepancies include **absence of measurement units on forms, trainee supervision not documented, no indication of competence in senior staff, late submission of studies, behind schedule with external and facility inspections, backlog of report audits, inadequate building maintenance, inadequate clean and dirty separation, inadequate freezer space for samples and insufficient laboratory space.**

The list of discrepancies goes on - suffice to say that yet again there is evidence of HLS running their business in a sloppy, disorganised manner. What is of particular concern is that there are discrepancies covering many different areas of the site, which shows that there are widespread problems at Occold.

'YOUR SECRETS ARE OUR SECRETS'?

It is apparent from the video footage that we received that the person filming it was able to wander up and down corridors and in and out of various labs and animal rooms without being challenged by any staff. This is also apparent from the photographs taken all round the site.

Yet again it has been proved that HLS's management's claim 'Your secrets are our secrets' is a complete and utter joke. They cannot possibly assure any clients of customer confidentiality. With two undercover investigations and two exposés covering all three of their sites in the UK and the USA in the last three years, who knows what company's links with HLS will be uncovered next?

Photo taken inside animal unit at Occold

-----Original Message-----
From: Beard, David J [mailto:djb73305@GlaxoWellcome.co.uk
Sent: 20 December 1999 14:22
To: 'gowera@ukorg.huntingdon.com'
Cc: Close, Steve P; 'muntp@ukorg.huntingdon.com'
Subject: Enquiry - Marmoset Irwin Studies

Hello Alma,
A quick e-mail to enquire if you are able to do marmoset "Irwin" behavioural studies at Eye. We may have a need to contract out one or two studies of this type over the next 4 to 5 months and possibly beyond.

- Write to the Home Office at 50 St Anne's Gate, London SW1. Ask them to revoke HLS's licence in light of this new investigation.

- Phone Occold on 01379 644122 and discuss the recent leak of information with them.

- Write to the HLS customers confirmed in the Occold leak and ask them to stop using HLS (see list, page 7).

- Get to the Occold 'Christmas Party' on December 22nd. Meet at the gates 11am onwards.

- Call the local group organising pickets at Occold on 07944 109095 and try to get to the gates as often as you can.

Blood On Their Hands

Thank you to everyone who contacted possible clients of HLS listed in the last newsletter and sent us their replies. Companies who had refused to answer enquiries from the campaign suddenly became more forthcoming when they were bombarded with all of your letters - well done!

Definite Customers

The companies listed below definitely pay Huntingdon Life Sciences to torture and kill animals on their behalf. The UK companies will be divided up on a county by county basis so you can target sites in your area - see insert. Please also put pressure on the senior management at the companies' headquarters, listed below. Remember these people are quite happy to pay HLS to do their dirty work for them even though they have been exposed five times for animal cruelty and staff incompetence.

Mr J. Melville, Chairman
Roche Products Ltd,
Albany Place,
40 Broadwater Road,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts, AL7 3AY,
01707 366000

The Chairman
Du Pont,
Du Pont House,
Wedgewood Way,
Stevenage,
Herts
SG1 4QN,
0800 7313339

Sir James Black
James Black Foundation,
68 Half Moon Lane,
Dulwich,
London,
SE24 9JE
0207 7378282

The Managing Director
Servier Laboratories Ltd,
Fulmer Hall,
Windmill Road,
Fulmer
Bucks,
SL3 6HH
01753 662744

The Chairman,
ARPIDA,
Dammstrasse 36,
4142 Munchenstein,
Switzerland

Yves Charpentier, Chairman
Merck Pharmaceuticals (Lipha),
Harrier House,
High Street,
West Drayton,
Middlesex,
UB7 7QG
01895 452200

The Chairman
Monsanto/Pharmacia,
PO Box 53,
Lane End Road, High Wycombe,
Bucks,
HP12 4HL
01908 661101

Mr Essen Moller, Chairman
Diamyd Medical of Stockholm,
Djurgardsvagen 54,
11525 Stockholm,
Sweden

The Chairman
British Biotech,
Watlington Road,
Cowley,
Oxford,
OX4 5LY
01865 748747

Sir Peter Walters
Smithkline Beecham,
New Horizons Court,
Great West Road,
Brentford,
Middlesex,
TW8 9EP
0808 1002228

Sir Richard Sykes
Glaxo Wellcome House,
Berkeley Avenue,
Greenford,
Middlesex,
UB6 0NN
0208 9668000

The Chairman
Novartis Pharmaceuticals,
Frimley Business Park,
Frimley,
Camberley,
Surrey,
GU16 5SG
01276 692255

Potential Customers

The companies listed below we strongly suspect of being HLS customers but so far they have declined to answer anyone. Please keep writing to them and demand a reply. The last two did not give us satisfactory answers therefore we are urging people to keep questioning them as well.

The Chairman
Neurocrine Biosciences
3050 Science Park Road
San Diego
California 92121
USA

The Chairman
Aventis
(Hoescht/Rhone Poulenc Rorer)
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4AH
01732 584000

The Chairman
Bayer
Bayer House
Strawberry Hill
Newbury
Berks
RG14 1JA
01635 566780

The Chairman
Eli Lilly
Lilly House
13 Hanover Square
London
W1R 0PA
0207 4094800

The Chairman
Pfizer Ltd. (Warner Lambert)
Ramsgate Road
Sandwich
Kent
CT13 9NJ
01304 616161

The Chairman
Yamanouchi House
Pyrford Road
West Byfleet
Surrey
KT14 6RA
01932 350797

The Chairman
Reckitt Benckiser
Dansom Lane
Kingston-upon-Hull
East Yorkshire
HU8 7DS
01482 326151

The Chairman
Sanofi Synthelabo
1 Onslow Street
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4YS
01483 505515

The Chairman
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Pharmaceuticals
141-149 Staines Road
Hounslow
Middlesex
TW3 3JA
0208 5727422
*"... our company's pharmaceutical research institute has no connection with Huntingdon Life Sciences **UK**."*

The Chairman
Merck Sharp & Dohme
Hertford Road
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire
EN11 9BU
01992 467 272
"... MSD does not currently have any contract work placed with HLS."

The next National on Sunday February the 11th will not be in Cambridgeshire but in an area heavily populated by HLS's customers. Let's see how loyal they are to HLS when it's their turn to feel the pressure. The venue will be announced early in the New Year. Prepare to be effective.

BOYCOTT THESE PRODUCTS:

Below is a selection of products produced by definite customers of HLS. If you would like a more comprehensive list, visit the websites shown below. If you know of any well-known products produced by the companies opposite and not listed below please email or write to the campaign at the address shown on the front of this newsletter.

Pharmacia & Upjohn (Pharmacia Ltd)
www.Pharmaciaupjohn.com
Depo-Estradiol, Detrol, Lomotil, Nicorette.

Monsanto (Pharmacia Ltd)
www.monsanto.com
Roundup Herbicide

Novartis
www.novartis.com
Ovaltine, Wasa (crispbread), Isostar, ExLax, Nicotinell

Servier
www.servier.fr
Hyperdix

SmithklineBeecham
www.sb.com
Hedex, Panadeine, Panadol, Solpadeine Beechams, Day Nurse, NicoDerm CQ, Nicorette, Night Nurse, Andrews Antacid, Andrews Salts, Gaviscon, Phillips Milk of Magnesia, Tums, Aquafresh, Aquafresh Flex, Macleans, Oxy, Horlicks, Lucozade, Ribena, Solstice

Du Pont
www.dupont.com
Benlate, Cambrelle, CoolMax, Cordura, Dacron, Kevlar, Lycra, Quallofil, Tactel, Teflon

Glaxo Wellcome
www.glaxowellcome.com
Combivir, Zovirax, Lanoxin, Ventolin, Zantac

Aventis

Creating and Caring ... for Life
Yamanouchi

SB

GlaxoWellcome

Roche

DU PONT

BRITISH BIOTECH

MONSANTO

Xenotransplantation update

We have yet to receive a response from the Home Office and the Good Laboratory Practice Monitoring Authority. Why this is we have no idea. If you have not written to them, then please do so.

If you have already written to them and not received an answer to your questions, then please write back to them through your local MP. For a copy of the 30 page xeno report, please contact us - it is free!

We need to know exactly what the Home Office are going to do about the xenotransplantation report. This is something that cannot be brushed under the carpet and it will not go away. The Home Office may well produce a report or response through their Inspectors or the Animals Procedures Committee. This would be pathetically inadequate because these are the same people who missed everything on Countryside Undercover and never picked up on the abuses in the xeno scandal over a five year period. We have absolutely no confidence in them and only an independent judicial enquiry will be good enough.

We have sent every MP a copy of the report so it is important that people follow this up with letters calling for a judicial enquiry. Sir Richard Body, MP, backed our call saying: *"On the face of it, it looks as if a judicial review would be justified. So in answer to your question I would say yes. I have written to the Minister at the Home Office who deals with these matters expressing my own views which are yours."*

Please also write or rewrite through your MP to the GLPMA asking how can they still tolerate HLS in the GLP scheme when they broke GLP rules 520 times during the xeno scandal.

Please also write to John Major who has very publicly backed HLS in the press. Ask him how he can publicly support HLS after the latest two scandals and is he prepared to condemn them. If not, why not? If he writes back without specifically answering your questions, just keep writing back until you get a satisfactory answer.

We really need to get our MPs on side. The evidence is there in black and white to nail Huntingdon with their own documents.

Write to the addresses below:

- John Major,
Houses of Parliament,
Westminster, London, SW1A OAA

- Dr Roger Alexander,
Head of GLPMA, Market Towers, The Medicines Control Agency, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London, SW8 5NQ

- The Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1

SUPPORT THIS DEMO:
On Thursday 15th March we will be handing in over 250, 000 signatures calling for HLS's closure to the Home Office at 11am. We will then move on to the Houses of Parliament at 2pm demanding parliamentary action.

...as seen on TV

Recently Huntingdon Life Sciences has featured on two documentary television programmes. Both the 'Money Programme' and 'Beastly Business' showed HLS in a very bad light. Following the programs we received very positive reactions from members of the public, two of which are published here.

Dear SHAC,
I have just seen the Money Programme on HLS and your ongoing campaign. I have been a vegan for 15 years and have been involved at various times in campaigning against animal cruelty. I have seen many horrible images of animal cruelty throughout my life which has saddened me and inspired me to lead the life I do, but I cried uncontrollably at the footage of the sadistic bastard torturing the beagle. I felt proud at what you've accomplished so far in your attempt to close the company down. You inspired me to get off my backside and do something to help.
Please send me details of any further action you intend to take, so I can help.

Hi SHAC !

Watched the programme on TV last night and will say at once that it brought tears to my eyes.

How **DARE** those bastards inflict suffering like that on defenceless dogs or on rats.

What cannot speak - i.e. video film - cannot lie and, after watching the cavalier attitude of the "technicians", I have no doubt that their behaviour seen towards the dogs and other creatures was in fact the "norm", and still is notwithstanding what HLS say.

As a long-established Planning Consultant and "member of the Establishment" I am totally opposed to anarchy - action outside the law - and I normally believe that the Law defines what people can or cannot do. But, as one contributor said, "lawful" does not always mean "right".

HLS Huntingdon is clearly an "animal Belsen". Almost ANY action is therefore justified in order to bring an end to the atrocities being performed at HLS in the name of scientific research.

Please send me information about how I can help, including financially.

Those bastards have to be STOPPED .... and the sooner the better.

The Spirit Lives On

Ida who passed away recently was a valued supporter of the campaign who will be missed. Ida was 80 years old and disabled but this did not stop her battling against HLS. The picture below is of Ida and her grandaughter on a demo outside the Occold lab. We fight young and old, side by side in the spirit of people like Ida.

Spotlight on Occold

In view of the recent exposé, activists holding pickets at HLS's Occold site need YOU! Documents have confirmed that animal abuse and staff incompetence are as rife at Occold as they are at HLS. There are animal killers on site twenty four hours a day, seven days a week so there is always a reason to be there.

The Occold site is much smaller than the one in Cambridge. Many of the buildings are close to the perimeter fence at the back of the site so you can watch workers in the toxicology department at work (until they put the blinds down). If you stand at the front gates, the building immediately to your right is the security 'suite' and the staff canteen. Many of the staff love to be reminded that what they are doing has no future whilst having their lunch break. Come and make their day! With regular visits to the site you will soon start to feel like you are getting to know the workers well ...

If there are protesters at the site the security don't like to let staff leave until there is a police presence. This has sometimes resulted in staff that clock off at 4.30 not actually leaving until 5.35, when the local constabulary have finally turned up. Recently ten sabs paying the Occold site an impromptu visit were amazed to see a police helicopter hovering over their heads!

HLS Occold is tucked away in deepest Suffolk. It has been left alone relatively unchallenged - now it's time to turn the heat up!

• Call the local group organising pickets at Occold on 07944 109095 and try to get to the gates as often as you can.

Torture for Profit

We know enough about what goes on in HLS to draw conclusions. Thousands of lives which have consisted of fear, pain and frustration are ended every week in tests which cause even more suffering. But even if HLS could convince us that their labs were no worse than an animal holiday camp, the reasons for closing it down would be just as important.

The argument is that animals are used in tests because they give an indication of what happens in humans. This is seen for the ludicrous argument it is when we consider some basic facts. Animals don't suffer the same illnesses as us - over 98% of human illnesses are NEVER seen outside humanity. Animals metabolise chemicals differently. What is poison to one species may not be to another - even a previous Scientific Executive of HLS admitted that animals predict adverse effects in humans in only 5%-25% of cases. Our nearest relatives, monkeys, were given drugs known to cause birth defects in humans, but only 30% were dangerous in monkeys. Even when chemicals or products do cause damage, it's often a different type of damage.

The reality is that animals are used for precisely the opposite reason - because they are NOT reliable.

Companies who use HLS need sufficient data to get their product on the market. For example, a spokesman for a major UK lab once said animal tests for additives were "designed to produce animal test data sufficient to gain permission from governments for the use of additives." It's this requirement which makes animal experiments such a perfect method. With thousands of species and strains to choose from, and the flexibility of different dosing levels, it's possible to come up with suitable experimental results from testing virtually any product on animals. The method gets even better when you realise that any experiments which give negative results can be disregarded, on the grounds that the animal results are not conclusive for humans. For example, Procter & Gamble dismissed fears over an artificial musk which caused liver tumours in mice, saying the results were "...of little relevance to humans". If you like the results, keep them, if you don't, ignore them.

This flexibility continues to contribute to the commercial success of animal experiments when the product hits the market. Lawsuits for damage caused by products have been lost because manufacturers have been able to refer to animal tests and claim they did all they could, and therefore deny negligence. Other cases have been lost despite victims unearthing papers which showed adverse effects in animal tests. The manufacturers claimed that just because the animals suffered ill effects, it doesn't mean humans would.

HLS are at great pains to highlight how much of their work is on drug development, as if that was more important than their household and garden product testing. But still animal testing is just a commercial tool, not a scientific one.

Everything that applies to product testing also applies to drugs. Most drugs are copies of existing drugs and do nothing new, others do nothing, and others do nothing but harm. Animal tests are capable of getting them all on the market - and providing a barrier to hamper legal redress. But the commercial value of them is only seen when we look at prescriptions.

Side effects from prescribed drugs are so common that for 40% of prescriptions, side effects from these drugs lead to further treatment. So not only does this mean that for 1000 drugs originally prescribed another 400 are prescribed, and from that 400, another 160 will result in further treatment. Single treatments can cause a domino effect resulting in several long-term or even permanent courses of medication, and even just following the 40% example through, 1000 original prescriptions will result in over 1660 drugs being given out. Some of these will be taken for years. It's bad for the patient, but great for the profits of the pharmaceutical companies. This is a lucrative method which provides a stable source of income. Like the legend of the goose that lays the golden egg, the profit lies not in killing the goose (or curing the patient), but in keeping the situation going.

If we had a rational policy of only introducing drugs we need, and testing them thoroughly according to the needs of the patient, not the drug companies, we would not have this situation. Ideally we would not have drug companies bombarding doctors with incentives and sales brochures to sell their drugs, we would have treatment for the patient.

Removing animal experiments would remove the flexible, unscientific method by which it is possible to satisfy the legal requirements to release almost anything onto the market. When you bear in mind that murderers' favourites like hemlock, prussic acid, strychnine and arsenic are all safe in some animals, it's easy to see how dangerous vivisection is.

If rates of side effects from drugs go up, so do drug sales. If they rise from 40% to 50%, 1000 original prescriptions would result in 2000 instead of the 1660 in the last example. When side effects can be glossed over by ineffective testing, what does this represent other than damn good business - however callous and destructive to humans and animals alike?

Pharmaceutical companies are immense. The size and influence of them makes other major companies tiny in comparison. With these giants in existence, it is little wonder that the Home Office is so weak and takes an extreme pro-vivisection viewpoint. These companies know that the campaign against HLS pushes vivisection into the limelight. When we close HLS, the future of vivisection will be opened up to question again. But if vivisection goes, their lucrative method of earning money is compromised.

In short, while HLS wobbles, the future of vivisection is hanging in the balance.

As well as taking every opportunity to assist HLS with the inevitable process of closing down, one of the most important things you can do as an individual is to learn the basic facts about why vivisection does not work, and why its continued use threatens human health.

In a world where millions of people turn uncaringly away from the plight of animals, the knowledge of what vivisection does to them and their family is truth that needs to be spread. It is this truth which the vivisectors fear more than anything.

Cris Iles
VIN

The VIN newsletter contains more information on vivisection. It is available free by E-mail by sending your E-mail address to vivisectionkills@hotmail.com or by sending a 39p stamp to VIN at PO Box 223, Camberley, GU16 5ZU.

IN BRIEF

Fridays at HLS

If you live in London, there's free transport to HLS every Friday. Come and tell the animal killers what you think of their filthy business. Call 0121 632 6460 for a free lift, or for times if you want to meet up with the London group there.

Banner Request

The SHAC banner was last seen at the National demo at Aventis. If anyone has it, please send it to the campaign address or contact us to pick it up.

Inside Info

The SHAC campaign would like to thank the people who are supplying us with inside information, in particular one individual known as *SMC*. We have recently learnt that HLS are supplied with chemicals by a company called *B & V Water Treatment Ltd, Unit 7, Dalmer Close, Royal Oak Industrial Estate, Daventry, Northants, NN11 5QL Tel. 01327 871967.* We are very grateful for any information received.

ACTION IN THE CITY

Animal rights campaigners were treated to hospitality at the plush offices of Merill Lynch on Ropemaker Street. Two campaigners walked into a very nice lounge and sat for a while reading the daily papers. One activist was just about to help herself to the coffee on offer when the other pointed out that the purpose of their visit was to persuade Merrill Lynch to get rid of their 8 million shares in HLS.

Casually the two activists walked into the spacious hall way and found that the open plan offices were ideal for communicating their disgust at Merill Lynch's involvement with HLS. Even when the rather slow-witted security staff grabbed the megaphone, the activists found that just by using their voices they could point out to a rapidly growing audience that their employer invests in a company which tortures and murders 500 animals every day.

The security guards then started to bully the duo, even trying to push over one woman on crutches. This stopped when she pointed out that the compensation would be substantial if she was injured further by them.

Meanwhile another activist, being of an inquisitive nature, was walking unchallenged around the whole building.

Eventually the City of London police arrived and asked the activists to leave. Which of course they did in order to leaflet the main entrance and inform passers-by of the involvement of Merill Lynch with the vivisection industry.

The next stop was Merill Lynch's offices in Farringdon where again activists entered the building. Security were so paranoid that they even tried to take leaflets out of employees' hands.

The police came again and the four activists moved on after a highly successful demo - imagine what 40 people could do!

Activists brave the cold to protest outside Merill Lynch

ORDER FORM

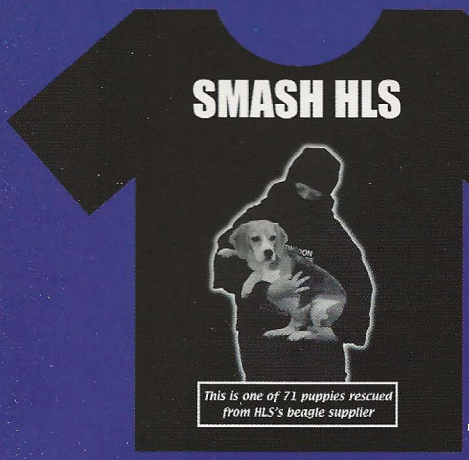
All the merchandise below is free except for t-shirts which cost £5 and sweatshirts which cost £15. THE MERCHANDISE IS THE MAIN EXPENSE FOR THE CAMPAIGN. IF YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION TOWARDS THE COST THEN PLEASE DO SO. THANKS!

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
HLS Leaflets		T-shirt (1) (£5) - state grey or black and state size (s,m,l,xl)	
HLS Poster (A2)			
HLS Factsheets		T-Shirt (2) (£5) - black only, state size	
Petitions		Hooded Tops (t-shirt 1 design)(£15)	
Xeno Report - *not illustrated* (see page 7)		SmithKline Product Sticker	
Shareholder Posters-for flyposting in & around shareholder's areas		SmithKline Product Poster-this poster is for flyposting over SmithKline adverts	
Shareholder Leaflets-for delivering or sending to shareholder's neighbours		SmithKline A5 Leaflet	
		SmithKline Phone Sticker	
Video: HLS - The Truth (Short)		SmithKline A2 Poster	
Video: HLS - The Truth (Long)		Collecting Tins (place these in sympathetic shops to collect money for the campaign)	
Video: Countryside Undercover		DONATION	£

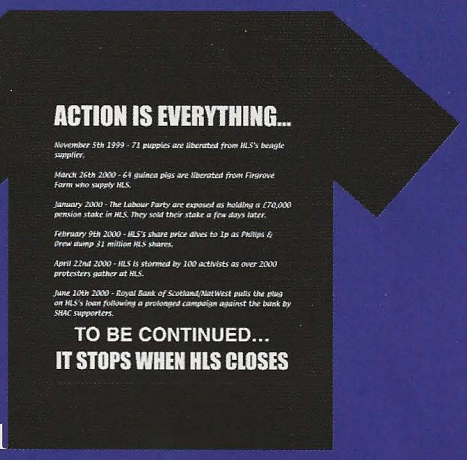
Name.....Address.....

.....County.....Post Code.....

Tel.....E-mail.....

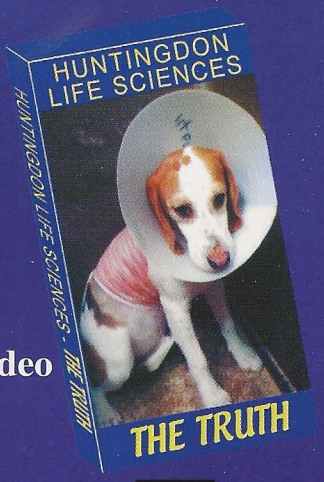


front



back

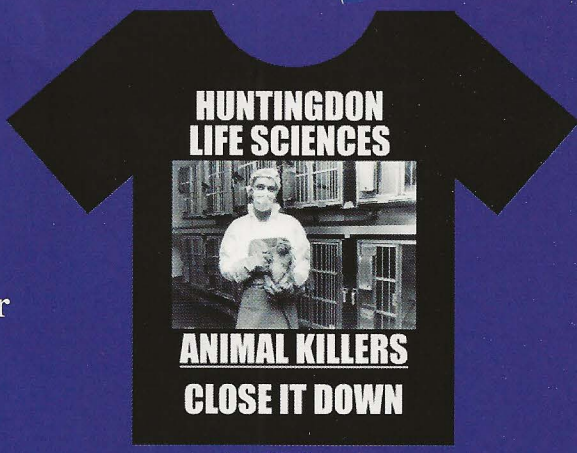
T-Shirt 1



Video

SmithKline A2 Poster

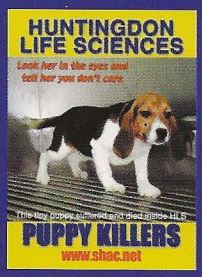
SmithKline Product Sticker



T-Shirt 2

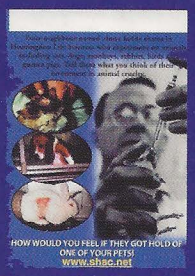
SmithKline A5 Leaflet

SmithKline A3 Poster

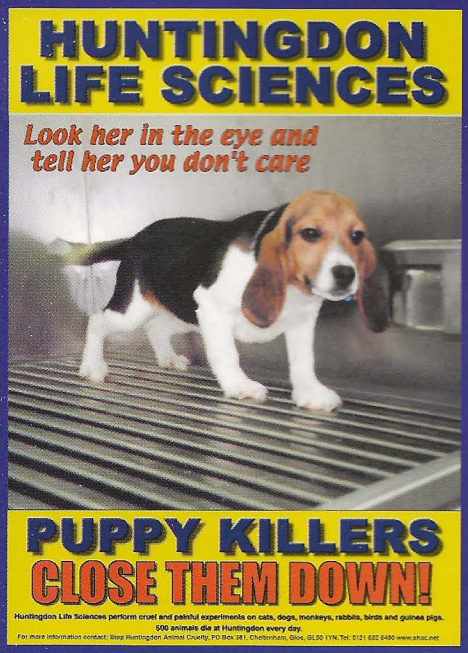


HLS Leaflet

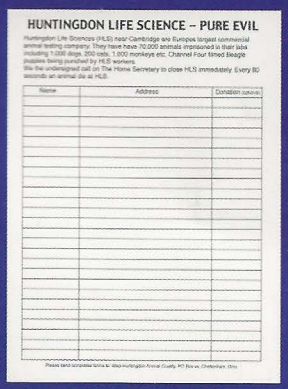
SmithKline Phone Sticker



Shareholder Leaflet

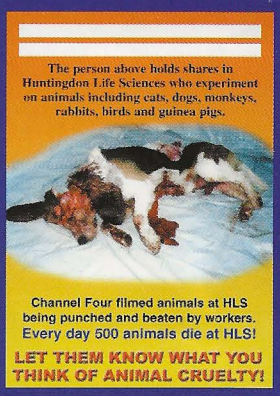


HLS A2 Poster



Petition

Factsheet



Shareholder Poster

WORTHLESS
CHEMICAL
POINTLESS
MEDICINE
YET
ANOTHER
NEEDLESS
COSMETIC